United Nations A/55/6 (Prog. 3)

General Assembly

Distr.: General
4 April 2000

Original: English

Fifty-fifth session
Item 120 of the preliminary list*
Programme planning

Proposed medium-term plan for the period 2002-2005

Programme 3
Peacekeeping operations

Contents

	Page
Overall orientation	2
Subprogramme 1. Operations	3
Subprogramme 2. Field administration, logistics support and mine action coordination	3
Subprogramme 3. Military and civilian police advice and planning	4
Legislative mandates	5

* A/55/50.

00-35691 (E) 110400

Overall orientation

3.1 The overall purpose of the programme is the maintenance of peace and security through the deployment of peacekeeping operations in accordance with the principles and provisions of the Charter of the United Nations. The mandates of the programme are provided in resolutions of the Security Council, which has the primary responsibility for the maintenance of peace and security, and of the General Assembly, in particular its resolutions on the administrative and budgetary aspects of peacekeeping operations and on assistance in mine action. Within the Secretariat, substantive responsibility for the programme is vested in the Department of Peacekeeping Operations.

3.2 The overall strategy in meeting the programme's objective is designed around three interdependent and complementary subprogrammes. While every effort will be made to seek the early resolution of conflicts through pacific settlement, resort to regional agencies or arrangements or other peaceful means in accordance with the Charter, the strategy is based on the development of a capacity to address a wide variety of conflict situations and to plan, establish, manage and direct existing and future peacekeeping operations. This will be accomplished by responding quickly and effectively to Security Council mandates in implementing peace agreements agreed to by the parties to a conflict. Such mandates may provide for the monitoring of ceasefires and buffer zones, preventing conflict situations from escalating while ways to resolve the conflict peacefully are being pursued or deterring conflicts from spilling over borders or escalating further. As mandated by the Security Council, additional activities will include the delivery of humanitarian assistance, disarming and demobilizing ex-combatants, reforming military establishments, establishing and monitoring police forces, promoting electoral and judicial reform and all aspects of civil administration and coordinating economic rehabilitation. If required by legislative bodies, the programme will maintain law and order and assume responsibility for a transitional administration or executive law enforcement. The programme will support the implementation of such mandates by ensuring unity of command of United Nations peacekeeping operations, ensuring effective logistical and administrative support to all field operations and coordinating demining activities. It will strengthen cooperation with regional arrangements, within their respective mandates, scope and composition, in order to enhance the capabilities of the international community in the maintenance of international peace and security.

3.3 The Department will ensure a continuous flow of information to and from Member States in all phases of peacekeeping operations, disseminate information to troop contributors in an effective and timely manner to enable them to make informed decisions on their participation in peacekeeping operations, continue to develop and implement innovative strategies for the participation of female personnel, on a broad geographical basis, in all aspects of peacekeeping operations and maintain cooperation with other related activities of the United Nations system. Particular attention will be given to enhancing the safety and security of peacekeepers in the field.

3.4 To enable the Organization to better respond to situations of conflict that may require the deployment of a peacekeeping operation, in-depth research and analysis of emerging policy questions in the field of peacekeeping operations and the coordination and formulation of related policies, doctrines and procedures will be enhanced through the analysis and assessment of ongoing and closed missions with a view to drawing lessons for ongoing and future operations. Emphasis will be given to early planning and effective coordination of activities designed to reduce the resumption of conflict and to contribute to creating conditions most conducive to reconciliation. To facilitate and promote greater cooperation and collaboration, the programme will serve as a focal point on issues related to peacekeeping operations and will coordinate with the Department of Political Affairs, the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, the United Nations Development Programme, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other organizations within the United Nations system, as well as with other regional organizations, as appropriate. Substantive and technical support will be provided to the Special Committee on Peacekeeping Operations, including follow-up on decisions taken by the Security Council and the General Assembly related to peacekeeping operations.

Subprogramme 1
Operations

Objective

3.5 The objective of the subprogramme is to ensure the effective implementation of Security Council mandates by increasing the capacity of the Organization for the planning, establishment and management of peacekeeping operations.

Strategy

3.6 Within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Office of Operations, which is supported by three regional divisions and the Situation Centre. A comprehensive approach to the establishment of peacekeeping operations and to the provision of guidance and advice to existing peacekeeping operations will be taken. To this end, dialogue with the parties to conflict will be enhanced, as will dialogue with other interested parties, members of the Security Council, troop contributors and relevant regional organizations, as appropriate and in accordance with their respective mandates. Information will be collected and analysed on the basis of reports received from the field, reconnaissance missions, field visits and consultation with other relevant departments and with United Nations agencies and programmes. Additional activities will include the enhancement of round-the-clock communication links with field missions and enhancement of a crisis management capacity capable of operating on short notice.

Expected accomplishments

3.7 Expected accomplishments would include the reduction and or cessation of hostilities in areas of conflict through the fulfilment of Security Council mandates where peacekeeping operations are deployed.

Indicators of achievement

3.8 Indicators of achievement would include an enumeration of instances of compliance by the parties to conflict with Security Council mandates or ceasefire and peace agreements that the parties to conflict reach among themselves.

Subprogramme 2
Field administration, logistics support and mine action coordination

Objective

3.9 The objectives of the subprogramme are to ensure timely and effective administrative and logistical support to peacekeeping operations, good offices, preventive diplomacy, peacemaking and humanitarian missions and an effective, proactive and coordinated response to threats from landmines and unexploded ordnance.

Strategy

3.10 Within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Field Administration and Logistics Division and the Mine Action Service. The activities of the subprogramme include ongoing operational support to peacekeeping activities in the areas of administration, personnel, finance, logistics and communications. To this end, the subprogramme will work towards ensuring operational readiness and the effective management of field missions, priority attention being given to enhancing resource planning; improving project management techniques and processes to launch, conduct and liquidate missions; the timely development of administrative structures; and enhancing the calibre of mission staff and their timely deployment to areas of operation. It will promote preparedness through training of civilian personnel and through the systematic management of human resources and assets. Concerted efforts will be made to improve gender balance in the staffing of field missions.

3.11 The subprogramme will also serve as the focal point and coordinator for mine action activities. To this end, and in coordination with other organizations in the United Nations system, it will develop policies on the establishment of mine clearance capacities in countries where mines constitute a serious threat to the safety, health and lives of the population. Assessment missions and surveys will be undertaken to establish priorities and oversight. Coherent and constructive dialogue with donors and the international community will be undertaken with a view to mobilizing resources for mine clearance programmes. In addition, the subprogramme will develop mine action programmes

in support of peacekeeping missions and, as required, initial mine action plans in humanitarian emergencies.

Expected accomplishments

3.12 Expected accomplishments would include operational readiness and effective management of field missions and the reduction of landmine and unexploded ordnance contamination.

Indicators of achievement

3.13 Indicators of achievement would include a reduction in the time lag between the adoption of resolutions and the deployment of civilian personnel and equipment to field missions; a reduction in the duration of the liquidation process; timeliness in the processing of claims; and increased mine action capacity in countries where mines constitute a serious threat.

Subprogramme 3
Military and civilian police advice and planning

Objective

3.14 The objective of the subprogramme is to ensure the effective and expeditious planning and deployment of military and civilian police components of peacekeeping operations.

Strategy

3.15 Within the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the substantive responsibility for this subprogramme is vested in the Military and Civilian Police Division. In conflict situations, operational plans need to be in place for the military and/or civilian components required for the resolution of the conflict, including trained and readily deployable personnel. To this end, concepts, procedures and methods to be applied to concrete conflict situations must be readily available in order for the Organization to respond quickly and effectively to the situation. The activities of the subprogramme will include preparing operational plans for military and civilian components of field missions, including contingency plans for potential and ongoing or closing operations, assisting in the selection of military and civilian police personnel for mission service and, as required, screening training standards. It will track daily operations of military and civilian police and assists in the peacekeeping training activities of Member States in order to ensure a coordinated approach to peacekeeping training programmes. Liaison will likewise be maintained with regional and national training centres to keep abreast of existing training practices, standards, policies and materials. To ensure a coordinated approach to training programmes, train-the-trainer workshops will be conducted, and training assistance will be provided in connection with seminars in mission management for potential senior officials. To support the peacekeeping training efforts of Member States, standard policies, procedures and guidelines to prepare individuals and units for field operations will be prepared and disseminated to Member States. Gender-sensitive perspectives will be incorporated into all training activities.

3.16 To enhance the rapid deployment capacity, the United Nations standby arrangements will be broadened to ensure the ready availability of data concerning the immediate capacity of Member States to deploy to new operations.

Expected accomplishments

3.17 Expected accomplishments would include rapid response in the deployment of trained military and civilian police to peacekeeping operations and operational readiness in responding to various conflict situations.

Indicators of achievement

3.18 Indicators of achievement would include a reduction in the amount of time involved in the recruitment and deployment of military and civilian police.

Legislative mandates

Programme 3
Peacekeeping operations

Charter of the United Nations, in particular Article 99

General Assembly resolutions

49/215	Assistance in mine clearance
49/233 A 52/230	Administrative and budgetary aspects of the financing of the United Nations peacekeeping operations
53/12	Support account for peacekeeping operations
54/81	Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects
54/191	Assistance in mine action

Subprogramme 2
Field administration, logistics support and mine action coordination

General Assembly resolutions

49/215	Assistance in mine clearance
54/191	Assistance in mine action